

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method of simultaneously applying a pre-selected dye image to multiple surfaces of a three dimensional object, comprising the steps of:

providing a three dimensional object having an outer plastic surface for receiving a dye image, the three dimensional object having a top surface and a plurality of side surfaces adjacent to and not co-planar with the top surface;

placing a dye image carrier sheet in registration over the three dimensional object, the image carrier sheet having a pre-selected dye image printed thereon;

lowering a flexible membrane over the three dimensional object and the image carrier sheet;

pre-heating the flexible membrane;

establishing a vacuum under the membrane, after pre-heating the flexible membrane, to cause the image carrier sheet to conform into pressurized communication with the top surface and side surfaces of the three dimensional object; and

heating the image carrier sheet with [[the]] a flexible heating element to cause the dye image to transfer from the carrier sheet onto the top surface and side surfaces of the three dimensional object.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the image carrier sheet comprises a substrate having a dye-receptive layer coated thereon.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the image carrier sheet comprises a film substrate.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the image carrier sheet comprises a film substrate bonded to a metal foil, the metal foil having an etched electrical circuit therein.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the image carrier sheet comprises a fabric substrate.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the image carrier sheet comprises a metallized fabric substrate.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the metallized fabric is photochemically etched to form an electrical circuit therein.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the etched metallized fabric is coated with a heat-resistant, electrically-insulating lacquer.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of pre-heating the image carrier sheet prior to the step of establishing the vacuum.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of heating the image carrier sheet is carried out by a flexible heating element provided on the flexible membrane.

Claims 27-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The method of claim [[27]] 17, wherein the flexible membrane comprises silicone rubber.

31. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of heating the image carrier sheet is carried out by a flexible heating element on the image carrier sheet.